

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

2
a²

--The flow of the scanning including line interpolation in this step S4 will be described through reference to Fig. 11. First, in step S11 an index i , which expresses the number of lines of the image to be displayed, is initialized at $i = 0$. Then, in step S12 a decision is made as to whether i is less than Y_{\max} ($i < Y_{\max}$). If the answer is yes, then in step S13 an index j , which expresses the number of lines to be copied, is initialized at $j = 0$. Next, the CPU 143 causes the data for the i -th line to be read from the frame memory 141 in step S14, and to be written to the main memory 142 in step S15.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

3
a³

--The spring material shown in Fig. 12A is bent at a right angle at the linking component 163c, and the two faces on the inside at the rear end which form a right angle are fixed with an adhesive or the like to the support member 162, which is provided with a hole through which an optical fiber 167 passes.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

4
a⁴

--The spring material in Fig. 18A is bent at a right angle as in Fig. 18B. Fig 18B is a view of when the spring material in Fig. 18A is bent at a right angle, viewed from the rear end side thereof, that is, from the left. A scanner 176B is formed by attaching a fiber holder 175b, to which is fixed the tip of the optical fiber 167 as shown in Fig. 19, for example,

to the distal end of the bent spring material in Fig. 18B. The rear end of one of the bent spring material sides (such as the bottom plate 163a) is fixed by an adhesive 178a at the front end of a base member 177.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 65, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q5
--The optical fiber 412 inserted through the tube 413 is fixed by a fixing component 419 near a connector 418 at the rear end of the tube 413. In other words, the optical fiber 412 is fixed at a position where vibration from the scanner 415 is not transmitted.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 70, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q6
--Figs. 37 and 38 show an optical unit 452 provided to the tip component of an optical probe 451 in a variation example.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q7
--This laser light is spread out and emitted such that the optical fiber tip 20 is the focal point, after which it is condensed by the object lens 18, then passes through the cover glass 26, after which it reaches the focal point 21 at the examination site. The light reflected from the focal point 21 travels the same optical path as the incident light, and is again incident on the fiber at the optical fiber tip 20. In other words, the optical fiber tip 20

Q1 and the focal point 21 of the examination site are in a confocal relationship with respect to the object lens 18.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q2 --The piezoelectric elements 16b and 16d are driven by the X drive circuit 32 of the control component 5 in this state. The operation of the piezoelectric elements 16i will be described.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 85, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q3 --To describe this in more specific terms, because both the optical fiber tip 20 and the object lens 18 are driven together, rather than either one being driven alone, there is almost no change in the relationship of the two when they are being driven and not being driven, and this solves the problem encountered with prior art of the difficulty in designing a lens which focused when just one of these components was driven. In other words, the object lens 18 is easier to design. Alternatively, no special lens system need be used.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 96, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q4 --Laser light is transmitted by the polarizing plate 92 to the optical fiber 90a, but only light having a specific polarization plane is transmitted, and part of this light is transmitted to the optical fiber 90b. Because these fibers are polarization plane-preserving